



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Small hands can start big fires **Children referred to HFD FireStoppers Program**

Today's early morning blaze in the 7800 block of West Bellfort was the second multi-apartment unit fire caused by a child this month in the area of West Bellfort and Fondren. Although both fires were set by separate children, both caused extensive damages. The fire on July 9, 2005 in the 6300 block of West Bellfort caused an estimated \$30,000 in property damages while this morning's blaze is currently estimated at \$400,000 in property damages. These fires are reminders of how small hands can start big fires.

The youths from both fires are being referred to the Houston Fire Department Firestoppers Program, a free education program for children who have played with fire. The Houston Fire Department urges parents to keep their lighters and matches to a minimum and out sight, out of reach and out of mind from children. If your child has been caught playing with fire, don't wait for a fire like these to call the Firestoppers Program for education.

For more information please call the HFD FireStoppers Program at (713) 495-7927 or visit the HFD Website at www.houstonfire.org.